

# COSTA RICA

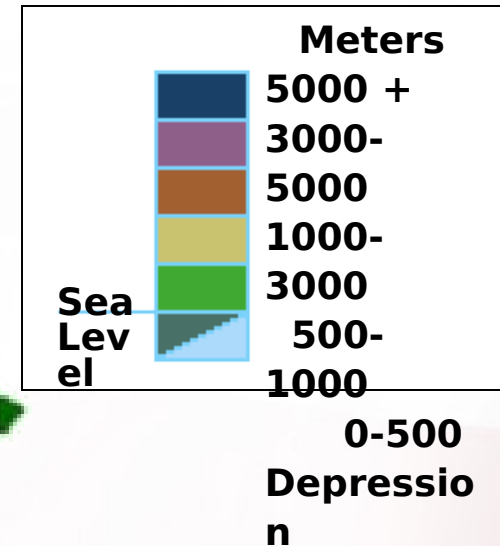


- Medium income nation
- Developing economy
  - Largely agricultural
- Strong democratic tradition



# Costa Rica: Environmental Issues

- Topography
- Climate



**Tropical and subtropical; dry season (December to April); rainy season (May to November); cooler in highlands**

**Coastal plains separated by rugged mountains**

**lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m**

# Costa Rica: Environmental Issues

- Industries
  - Agriculture
- Water
  - Surface water contaminated with raw sewage, industrial wastes, and runoff
  - Beaches fecal contamination
  - Beaches and other surface waters have fuel spills

# Costa Rica: Environmental Issues

- Food
  - Fecal contamination due to raw sewage used as fertilizer
  - Contaminated shellfish caused by algal toxins, sometimes seen as red tides
- Air
  - Localized pollution near urban and industrial centers
- Soil
  - Localized contamination near industry and waste disposal sites
  - DDT likely in agricultural and malaria control areas

# Costa Rica: Environmental Issues

- Greatest short-term environmental health risks
  - Water and food contaminated with raw sewage or runoff
- Greatest long-term environmental health risks
  - Urban air pollution especially in San Jose



# **Costa Rica: Diseases of Operational Importance**

- Intermediate-risk country
- Diseases of greatest risk
  - Food and Waterborne: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A
  - Vector-borne: dengue fever, malaria

# Costa Rica: Diseases of Operational Importance

- Diseases of potential risk
  - Food and Waterborne: brucellosis, protozoal diarrhea, typhoid/paratyphoid fever
  - Vector-borne: Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, murine typhus, tickborne rickettsioses
  - Sexually transmitted: gonorrhea/chlamydia, hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS
  - Water contact: leptospirosis
  - Respiratory: tuberculosis
  - Animal contact: rabies